

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 5-9, 11, 13, 15, and 23-27 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Palmer (US 6, 589,265) discloses a vessel filter with two filtering sections at both ends of the device formed by curved struts that join at tubular portions (see Figure 5). Palmer also discloses the concept of an "S-shaped strut" in Figure 6 that comprises an inwardly bent region (74), a linear strut region, and a curved region (70) extending to an inner portion of a tubular portion (50). The prior art fails to disclose or suggest a vessel filter comprising filtering sections and tubular portions at both ends of the filter, wherein the tubular portions at each of the filter are oriented closer to the center of the filter than the inwardly bent regions of the struts of the filtering sections, so that an imaginary line tangent to the inwardly bent region of a strut and perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the filter is located outwardly beyond an outer end of the adjacent tubular portion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah Webb whose telephone number is (571)272-5749. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, ***please contact the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes, at (571) 272-4357***. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

***If there are any inquiries that are not being addressed by first contacting the Examiner or the Supervisor, you may send an email inquiry to***

TC3700\_Workgroup\_D\_Inquiries@uspto.gov.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. W./

Examiner, Art Unit 3731

/Kathleen Sonnett/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3731